Perinatal Dengue Infection Manifesting as Myocarditis: A Case Report

Background: The clinical spectrum of dengue ranges from mild thrombocytopenia to devastating hemorrhages and refractory shock. Cardiac manifestations in dengue infection is least described especially in neonates.

Objective and Design: In this case report, we describe a rare occurrence of myocarditis due to perinatal dengue virus infection.

Setting: Tertiary care neonatal unit in Delhi

Subjects and interventions: A 36+2 week male baby weighing 2.35 kg born out of spontaneous conception to 28 year old primi mother diagnosed as a case of dengue fever three days prior to the delivery. Baby cried immediately after birth but required oxygen support for minimal respiratory distress. Baby was noticed to have bradycardia (HR<100/min.) but was hemodynamically stable. He had multiple petechiae over the abdomen and the limbs. There were no other hemorrhagic manifestations. Subsequently at the end of week heart rate, thrombocytopenia and cardiac function showed improvement.

Discussion: Probably this is the first case of perinatal dengue infection manifesting as myocarditis in a neonate described in world literature. Cardiac involvement in dengue and its pathogenesis have been seldom described and poorly investigated. The probable mechanism could be release of inflammatory mediators or due to the direct action of the virus over the myocyte.

Conclusion: Dengue manifesting in neonates is very rare but it can cause atypical presentations like myocarditis and cardiogenic shock.